

PROSPECTUS.

HISTORY OF CANADA UNDER BRITISH RULE.

BY WILLIAM KINGSFORD, LL.D., F.R.S., CAN.

ROWSELL & HUTCHISON, TORONTO.

NEARLY five years have passed since the writer announced his intention of undertaking a history of Canada, to be continued to the 11th of February, 1841, the date when the Province of Canada was constituted. The publication of the fourth volume in November, 1890, which brought to a close the history of French rule, completed the first part of this engagement.

Since that date the writer has been sedulously occupied on the continuation of the work. The first volume of Canada under British rule, the fifth of the series of the whole history, will appear in the first week of February.

This volume will consist of four books :

1. The Indian Wars of 1763-1765.
2. The governments of Murray and Carleton, to the passage of the Quebec Act in 1774.
3. An examination of the events culminating in the American Revolutionary War of 1775-1783 ; ending in the treaty of Versailles, and the establishment of the United States ; with an attempt to set forth the causes, owing to which Canada remained a part of the British dominions.
4. The narrative of the invasion of Canada by the troops of Congress, including the loss of the forts on the Richelieu ; the surrender of Montreal and Three Rivers ; and the narrative of Arnold's advance by the Kennebec and Chaudière to the South of the St. Lawrence. All that then remained to British rule in Canada was the ground enclosed by the walls of Quebec.

The Canada Act of 1791, which divided the Province of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada, continued in operation until 1841, the period when the writer's labours will terminate. A half century has elapsed since that date ; consequently the bitterness of partizanship and ^{the} passions of the time have passed away, so that the events which happened, and the career of the public men who came into prominence, may

be dispassionately examined, without calling forth personal antagonism towards those who may attempt to narrate them.

The period includes the relation of the American war to the close; the years succeeding the peace of Versailles; the settlement of Upper Canada now the Province of Ontario; the establishment of the provincial legislatures granting self-government to the two provinces, and the consequent disputes arising from the different theories regarding the extent of colonial constitutional rule. Although the two legislatures remained apart in their political existence, the same party enmity, the same passions were called forth; and the form in which the excited feeling of the time eventually found vent, was the same in character and result: in both provinces resort was had to rebellion.

It will be the duty of the writer to describe the troublous times of 1837-1838; he trusts to do so without re-awakening the rancour which has so happily passed away, and that they may be read as a passage in history.

The episode of the war of 1812-1814 requires careful examination, and that it be diligently narrated according to the contemporary authority we possess.

All these subjects call for full consideration. The writer fails to see that he would efficiently perform the duty he has undertaken, if he slurred over the record of them, on the feeble excuse that he desired to reduce the length of the narrative.

With this principle in view, it is not possible to contract the history of the period to a less limit than four volumes, including that now in the press. The remaining three will appear proximately year by year; the last in 1895.

These volumes will be brought out with the care and attention to the simplest detail, which is observable in the volumes which have been published, and will be identical with them in the matter of typography, maps, paper and binding.

The cost for each volume bound in cloth is \$3.00.

The subscription paper includes the subscription to the four volumes. No application will be made for its continuance for each succeeding volume, as was the case with the first series.

A subscriber at any period of his subscription may, however, decline to continue it; a notice in writing to that effect will absolve him from further responsibility. In other words, although the subscription paper includes the four volumes, it is only binding to the extent the subscriber himself may determine.

The writer trusts that he may be permitted the remark: that it has been his effort to produce, to the date named by him, a history of Canada, written carefully, with no national, or party bias, without an attempt to meet any pre-conceived theory, and with the desire that his work may prove generally acceptable. He has striven to carry out this principle as he was best able, and as thoroughly as his humble abilities have permitted, sustained by the hope, that his labours may obtain for him a permanent place in English literature.

OTTAWA, Ontario,
21st December, 1891.

WILLIAM KINGSFORD.

EXTRACTS FROM REVIEWS ON VOL. IV.

NOVEMBER 1891.

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It will be the duty of the trusts to do so without regret, and that they may be ready.

The episode of the war will be diligently narrated according to the facts.

All these subjects call for a full and efficient performance, the duty of the trusts, on the feeble excuse that the work is not yet done.

With this principle in view, the work will be limited to a less limit than four volumes, three will appear proximately.

These volumes will be published in full detail, which is observable in the first series, identical with them in the same manner.

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The writer trusts that the work will be produced, to the date of publication, without national, or party bias, with the desire that his work may carry out this principle as far as possible.

He has been permitted, sustained by the hope, that his labours may obtain for him a permanent place in English literature.

CIRCULAR.

Your attention is respectfully directed to the accompanying Prospectus of the second part of the History of Canada, four volumes of which have been published. The Fifth Volume, the first of the new series, will appear early in February, 1892.

Should you see fit to become a subscriber, will you kindly fill up the notice appended, and return it to Dr. Kingsford, 127 Stewart Street, Ottawa. In the event of money being sent, be good enough to forward it by Post Office Order or Registered Letter.

Ottawa, 21st December, 1891.

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THE VERY REVEREND PRINCIPAL GRANT,
Queen's University, Kingston.

[*The Week*, Toronto.]

"Dr. Kingsford has again shewn his power of appreciating and describing the characters of the actors in the great drama he presents to us. . . . We have in our former notices stated our appreciation of Dr. Kingsford's qualifications for the great work he has performed so well; his extensive knowledge, indefatigable industry, and deep, patriotic interest in his subject; and his honourable impartiality and fairness in the statement of facts, and the inferences he draws from them; and we hold the same opinion still and believe that he has faithfully performed his duty as an historian, without fear, favour or affection, so far as human frailty admits."

Canada Law Journal, Toronto.

W.

"Dr. Kingsford tells us in his preface, that the four volumes which have now appeared are but an introduction to the history of British rule in Canada, which he hopes eventually to carry down to the union of the two provinces in 1841. . . . The present instalment is a valuable contribution to historical knowledge, and by far the most complete presentment that has been given of events and of the men who shaped them in North America. The author has wisely not confined his purview to the narrow limits of Canadian settlement, but has related the course of affairs in Europe, which so largely influenced those of America, and has brought together from foreign as well as English archives, everything that bears on the "making" of the peoples that inhabit the northern portion of the continent. These introductory volumes throw much light on the causes which were already in operation to produce the American Revolution, so that they may be regarded as indispensable to a proper understanding not only of the early history of Canada, but also of that of the other British provinces so soon to become the United States."

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Canadian Churchman, Toronto.

"Of the fourth (we hope not the final) volume of Dr. Kingsford's history of Canada, we can say that it is in keeping with the volumes that preceded it. . . . In his account of the progress of the war Dr. Kingsford shows his characteristic independence, and his characteristic earnestness to discover the truth on every point discussed. . . . Let us hope then as he has started so he will be encouraged to continue the story of English rule in Canada."

The Gazette, Montreal.

"Added to a thoroughness of method, excelled by no historian, there is the native enthusiasm of a writer who is Canadian first and last. The history will live. Its strong, vivid English embalms the trials and triumphs of the country in admirable prose."

The Telegram, Toronto.

"The foot-notes and appendices which abound in these volumes and are in themselves a mine of curious and valuable information make the history a work of reference in itself, encyclopædic in its character; and no reader will need to have recourse to other works to throw light upon the particular events that Dr. Kingsford has dealt with."

"We gather from his Preface to the fourth volume, that Dr. Kingsford intends continuing the work as far as the year 1841, when the two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada were united under a common government. There is so much curious and interesting matter introduced into each of the four volumes published, that we shall look forward with a cheerful expectation to the continuation of the history of Canada."

The Westminster Review.

"The diligence and careful research so manifest in the former volumes are equally conspicuous in the volume before us. We may, indeed, affirm that as the character of the movements towards the final success of the British arms, and the results of military skill and political diplomacy were peculiarly complicated, so was it needful to discriminate and sift the available evidence of facts with more than ordinary skill and judgment. On these points in the concluding volume Dr. Kingsford is eminently satisfactory, and every candid reader must feel that he is carried onward by a judicious, sober-minded and safe guide. . . . Dr. Kingsford's work must secure a permanent place in the classics of history. It will surely make its way by the measure of its great excellencies. . . . This history of Canada under French rule, is a national work and is every way worthy of a national recognition."

The Journal, Ottawa.

"In this volume Dr. Kingsford has thoroughly accomplished the task which he entered into four years ago, that of recording the history of French rule in Canada. . . . In many respects this history is perhaps the most thorough and most interesting that has yet been written of the period with which it deals. Dr. Kingsford has a thorough knowledge and appreciation of French genius as manifested in Canada, and what is extremely rare among the English writers much sympathy with it. . . . He studies carefully and keenly the characters of the statesmen, soldiers and ecclesiastics of the time. . . . All this is clearly and lastingly impressed upon the minds of the readers of Dr. Kingsford's most interesting volume."

The Witness, Montreal.

"Dr. Kingsford has acquitted himself so well, that his book must stand as the most thorough and complete history of Canada under the French *regime* that has thus far been issued by the Canadian press."

The Chronicle, Quebec.

"The history of French rule in Canada, which has been brought to a conclusion in the last volume of Dr. Kingsford's scholarly, able and interesting work, covers a period of immense importance to the statesman or to the scholar who would be informed as to the influences and struggles which moulded the early life of the two great peoples, of the North American continent. . . . After perusing this clear, comprehensive and unprejudiced study of an all important period of our annals, from the pen of one who so evidently possesses the power necessary to make an historian, we may hope that Dr. Kingsford will be enabled to carry out his intention of writing a history of British rule in Canada until the 11th of February, 1841, when the union of the two provinces was consummated."

The Empire, Toronto.

"Though the form which Mr. Kingsford has adopted is not that which may attract the indolent reader, it is not unwelcome to the student of history. . . . What does Mr. Kingsford the greatest credit is the care which he displays in authenticating his statements. On all controversial points, he appears to have sought for the best information before making up his mind. . . . He sets forth the facts in lucid order; he narrates what happened with admirable tact, and he does well. No Canadian writer has yet displayed his skill and talent in writing Canadian history. Each volume by Mr. Kingsford leads us to feel more confident that the work which he has planned will prove to be the standard history of Canada."

The Athenæum.

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